

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01834 050307Z

20

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 USIA-12 /027 W

----- 014725

R 031118Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1226

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 1834

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: AFS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FOR NEA/INS, JAMES LEADER

1. DIFFICULT AND DELICATE PROBLEM HAS JUST ARISEN  
IN CONNECTION WITH AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE SCHOLAR-  
SHIP PROGRAM ON WHICH WE NEED DEPARTMENT'S HELP.  
BACKGROUND IS: LATE LAST YEAR LOCAL SELECTION  
BOARD FOR AFS PROGRAM, ON WHICH EMBASSY CAO SERVED  
AS MEMBER, REDUCED NEARLY 40 CEYLONSE APPLICANTS  
TO 16 STUDENTS ALL OF WHOM WERE CONSIDERED WELL QUALIFIED AND  
WHOSE PAPERS WERE SENT TONEW YORK FOR FINAL SELECTION.  
WE UNDERSTAND PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY FROM AFS REPRESENTATIVE  
AT 11 HAVE BEEN FINALLY RANKED BY AFS NEW YORK AND PLACED.  
TWO HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR MEDICAL OR OTHER  
REASONS. TWO ARE STILL IN "SUSPENSE" FOR PLACEMENT.  
ONE, ALTHOUGH QUALIFIED, HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN ON GROUND  
THERE WERE OTHER CANDIDATES MORE HIGHLY QUALIFIED.  
HE, HOWEVER, WAS INFORMED BY LETTER THAT AFS WAS  
DROPPING HIM BECAUSE OF INABILITY FIND HOME FOR HIM  
IN UNITED STATES.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS STUDENT IS PETER SELVARATNAM,  
NEPHEW OF MAITHRIPALA SENANAYEKE, DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER, MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION, POWER AND HIGH-  
WAYS, AND WHO ACTS AS PRIME MINISTER IN ABSENSE OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 01834 050307Z

MRS. BANDARANAIKE. MINISTER HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO

AMBASSADOR ASKING FOR "HELP IN THIS SPECIAL CASE",  
AND HIS LETTER STATES THAT MRS. SENANAYEKE HAD  
BEEN TOLD AFTER COLOMBO SELECTION PROCESS THAT  
"QUITE UNOFFICIALLY, HE (PETER SELVARATNAM) WOULD  
BE SELECTED BECUASE HE HAD DONE SO WELL". (HOWEVER, AFS  
REPRESENTATIVE HERE DID WRITE SELVARATNAM'S FATHER  
IN JUNE SAYING THAT SELECTIONS HAD NOT BEEN  
FINALIZED AND THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY  
HIS SON MIGHT NOT BE PLACED.)  
IN HIS LETTER TO AMBASSADOR MINISTER GOES ON TO SAY  
THAT "THE BOY IS VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS LETTER  
(FROM AFS) AND SO ARE WE". HE SUGGESTS THAT IF  
PROBLEM IS MERELY FINDING A HOST FAMILY, HIS WIFE'S  
SISTER, WHO IS MARRIED TO A DR. DANIEL, CEYLONESE  
DOCTOR WORKING ON SPECIAL CANCER PROJECT AT HARVARD  
OR MIQN COULD BE ASKED TO FIND SUITABLE HOST FAMILY  
WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE SELVARATNAM.

3. AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN GENERAL POSITION NOT TO  
GET INVOLVED IN CASES SUCH AS THIS, IN ORDER  
PRESERVE AUTONOMY OF AFS PROGRAMS. HOWEVER,  
BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASE AND FACT  
USG THROUGH USEF PROVIDES RS. 8000 ANNUAL GRANT  
TO SUPPORT AFS OFFICE HERE, WE ASK THAT YOU EXPLORE  
INFORMALLY WITH AFS SOME WAY TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTY  
WHICH HAS ARISEN.WE WISH POINT OUT THAT SELVARATNAM  
WAS CONSIDERED QUALIFIED, HIS AUNT APPARENTLY WAS  
TOLD INFORMALLY THAT HE WOULD BE SELECTED, AND  
MRS. DANIEL MAY BE ABLE TO FIND HOME FOR HIM.

4. AFS GRANTEES FROM SRI LANKA ARE SCHEDULED DEPART  
COLOMBO JSDY 16 TO CONNECT WITH CHARTER FLIGHT FROM  
BANGKOK. IN VIEW SHORT TIME-FRAME, REQUEST EFFORT  
BE MADE FIND SOME SOLUTION BEFORE THAT DATE.  
VAN HOLLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974COLOMB01834  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740178-0325  
**From:** COLOMBO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740778/aaaacowo.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AFS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR NEA/INS, JAMES LEADER  
**TAGS:** OEXC, CE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005